
ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



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Stump and Brush Management

Background

Stumps and brush are generated as a result of most types of land development. In New Hampshire, the management of discarded stumps and brush is regulated as a solid waste activity under the provisions of the New Hampshire Solid Waste Rules (SW Rules). This fact sheet provides an explanation of the regulatory requirements for the various methods of managing stumps.

Above-Ground Management

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) encourages the above-ground management of stumps, including chipping, because it eliminates the use of valuable landfill space and because it produces a reusable product. Shredded material can be used for several purposes, including mulch and biomass fuel.

For this reason, the management of stumps and tree parts by above-ground methods is exempt from the requirement for obtaining a permit under the SW Rules, provided that certain conditions are met. The conditions include: compliance with the universal facility requirements in Chapter Env-Wm 2700 of the SW Rules; active management; no composting whole stumps; and, if combusted, a permit must be obtained from the NHDES Air Resources Division and local fire officials, if required.

Chips, shavings and sawdust produced from stumps and other virgin wood are certified by the SW Rules for distribution and use as fuel, mulch, animal bedding and a bulking agent for composting. This means that when actively managed for the identified purposes, virgin wood chips, shavings and sawdust are considered a product rather than a waste, and are not regulated by the SW Rules.

Burial/ On-Site

When stumps generated from clearing land are buried on the same land, state law exempts the activity from regulation under the SW Rules, provided that the burial site is at least 75 feet from any drinking water supply and local approval is obtained, if required.

Burial/ Off-Site

The burial of stumps and tree parts received from off-site locations (i.e., not at the site of generation) does not require a permit, provided that:

The burial site is:

- at least 75 feet from any water supply well;
- at least 25 feet from any property line; and
- at least 4 feet above the seasonal high water table;

the stumps and tree parts thereof are buried in a manner as to preclude the development of sink holes and erosion of cover materials, and to otherwise be protective of the environment, public health and safety; and a notation must be recorded in the chain of title for the property on which the burial site is located. The notification shall include:

- a statement that the property has been used for the disposal of stumps and tree parts thereof;
- the date the disposal activity took place;
- the location of the burial area(s) with sufficient specificity as to allow an independent third party to locate the area(s); and
- the estimated quantity of waste disposed on the property.

Additional Information

For additional information concerning stump and brush management, including permit application forms, please contact:

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
Waste Management Division, Solid Waste Management Bureau
29 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-6509
telephone: (603)271-2900; fax: (603)271-2456; TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

A copy of the SW Rules may be obtained by contacting the NHDES Public Information and Permitting Office at the above noted mailing address or TDD Access or by telephoning (603) 271-2975.